



CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

State will pay for coverage when federal funds run out

Hillary Borrud The Oregonian/OregonLive

Oregon will spend \$35 million to continue a popular children's insurance program into 2018, when the state expects federal funds will run out, state officials announced Tuesday.

In Oregon, the Children's Health Insurance Program provides coverage for 120,000 children and 1,700 pregnant women, most of whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, the free insurance program for the poor.

Gov. Kate Brown outlined her decision to extend the insurance in a letter to the state's health agency on Monday, writing that "as Congress rebuffs its responsibilities, it is up to us — Oregonians — to stand up for our children."

The U.S. House passed a bill to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program earlier this month, but the legislation has not passed the U.S. Senate. The program expired at the end of September but most states have enough money left to keep going through the end of the year or into 2018. Oregon is among nearly a dozen states that will be the first to run out of funding, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Oregon would be obligated to move 40,000 of the children to Medicaid, according to the state.

But the state will pay to keep coverage for the remaining 79,000 children from families with modest incomes as well, Brown said. Children from a family of four in that group

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SPORTS

Oregon teams come up short at Knight tourney

Upstart Portland State had No. 1 Duke on upset alert until the Blue Devils took control and Oregon stayed close but ultimately fell to Connecticut in the first round. **B1**



A&E

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HOMELESSNESS

County's tiny home idea faces delays



More than 1,000 people in Multnomah County have applied to have an accessory dwelling unit, like this one from Portland's SQFT Studios, placed in their backyard to rent to a homeless family for five years. Multnomah County

Molly Harbarger The Oregonian/OregonLive

An attention-getting plan to spur homeowners to host a tiny house for a homeless family in their backyards has been delayed more than six months — in part, due to Portland's tree canopy rules.

More than 1,000 people applied to have a small pre-fabricated apartment placed in their backyard for free, contingent on renting it to a homeless family with children for five years. The idea came from Multnomah County's two-year-old Idea Lab, which tries to tackle complex issues like the housing crisis with innovative solutions that bypass traditional layers of bureaucracy.

"There's something about this that has captured folks' imagination," said Idea Lab director Mary Li.

More than 300 families live in shelters and motels in Multnomah County on any given night. Many work, their children attend school and some have housing subsidies. But they can't find a permanent home. Without a permanent address, many struggle to find work or get on their feet.

The willingness with which Portlanders jumped on board to offer hard-luck families a hand up in the form of beloved minimalist cottages made the test seem like a fast fix and easy sell.

The backyard tiny home concept presented unforeseen challenges, however. Even with the county's blessing to seek

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